

How To Be Free Inside

"Our Declaration Of Dependence", Part 1 of 2
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"You...were called to be free."
(Galatians 5:13a, NIV)

I) THE BIGGEST FREEDOM ISSUE: THE LAW.

Three Possible Responses

1) LEGALISM: Adding self-made rules to God's law.

"Jesus replied, 'And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?... They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" (Matthew 15:3&9, NIV)

2) LICENSE: Ignoring the significance of God's law.

"The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." (Romans 8:7, NIV)

3) LIBERTY: Obeying the spirit of God's law.

"The Spirit of the Lord has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted and to announce that captives shall be released and the blind shall see, that the downtrodden shall be freed from their oppressors, and that God is ready to give blessings to all who come to Him." (Luke 4:18-19, LB)

II) THE SURE FREEDOM ANSWER: THE SPIRIT.

"Through Christ the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2, NIV)

"After all, the Law brings death, but the Spirit brings life." (2 Corinthians 3:6b, CEV)

Finding The Freedom We Need

1) Experience FREEDOM BY GRACE through faith in Christ. (Freedom from the punishment of the law into eternal life)

"The law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent His own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours our sinful. God destroyed sins control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the requirements of the law would be fully accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but follow the Spirit." (Romans 8:3-4, NLT)

"Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith." (Galatians 3:23-24, NIV)

2) Experience FREEDOM FOR GROWTH by obeying Christ. (Freedom from the power of the law to experience life-change)

"Jesus said... 'You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' 'But we are descendants of Abraham,' they said. 'We have never been slaves to anyone on earth. What do you mean, 'set free'?' Jesus replied, 'I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave to sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.'" (John 8:31-36, NLT)

"For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants." (Philippians 2:13, LB)

3) Experience FREEDOM FROM GUILT by being "in" Christ. (Freedom from the pain of the law to experience confidence)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1, NIV)

"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin." (Psalm 32:5b, NIV)